

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4425

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GR

SUBJECT: COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

1. DURING MY MEETING IN PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS' OFFICE
AVEROFF TOLD ME THAT KARAMANLIS WOULD BE ARRIVING
SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT TO FORM THE NEW GOVERNMENT AS
PRIME MINISTER UNDER GENERAL GHIZIKIS. HE ADDED
KARAMANLIS WOULD PROBABLY MEET FIRST WITH THE MILITARY
CHIEFS, AND THEN THEY WOULD RETIRE AND HE WOULD DISCUSS
THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT WITH THE ASSEMBLED
POLITICAL LEADERS. AVEROFF MADE CLEAR KARAMANLIS
WOULD BE CALLING THE SHOTS AND THAT, THEREFORE, THE
ACTUAL COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT COULD ONLY BE
KNOWN AFTER KARAMANLIS MADE UP HIS MIND. AVEROFF TOLD
ME HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO SEEK THE POST OF FOREIGN
MINISTER BECAUSE HE FELT HE HAD BEEN SO DEEPLY INVOLVED
IN THE LONDON-ZURICH AGREEMENT HE DID NOT BELIEVE HE
SHOULD NOW GET INVOLVED AGAIN AT THIS TIME. HE SAID
HE HOPED MAVROS WOULD BE FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH
KANELLOPOULOS STRONGLY SECONDED FOR POLITICAL PARTY
REASONS. IN ANY EVENT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTAIN
REPRESENTATIVES OF A BROAD SECTOR OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SPECTRUM OF POWER. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION
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THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EDA, THE FAR LEFT POLITICAL

ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS IN PART BEEN DOMINATED BY THE COMMUNISTS, IS TO BE INCLUDED. IN FACT, SINCE THE MILITARY BASICALLY RETAIN THEIR POWER POSITION THIS IS QUITE UNLIKELY TO BE PERMITTED BY THEM. THE SAME GOES FOR ANDREAS PAPANDREOU. INCIDENTALLY, AVEROFF TOLD ME THAT PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS HAD MADE CLEAR HE NOT WEDDED TO POST AND PREPARED TO YIELD TO OTHERS IF IN INTERESTS OF THE NATION.

2. AVEROFF TOLD ME THAT GENERAL IOANNIDES WILL PROBABLY BE SENT ON LEAVE. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT A TRANSFER TO IOANNINA WOULD NOT BE THE PROPER MOVE AT THIS TIME. AS FOR THE YOUNG TURKS, MAJOR SPANNOS, ETC., THEY ARE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO ACTIVE MILITARY COMBAT UNIT OUT OF ATHENS. AVEROFF SAID THIS WOULD SAVE THEIR PHILOTIMO.

3. IT IS POSSIBLE I MAY SEE KARAMANLIS LATER IN THE MORNING AS BOTH MAVROS AND AVEROFF EXPRESSED HOPE I WOULD STAY IN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE UNTIL HIS ARRIVAL. I SAID I NEEDED TO RETURN TO MY OFFICE TO REPORT TO YOU. TASCA

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